

ing the lake to rest in the sun and Mr. Dixon's photographs show them close to the houses and driveways apparently entirely devoid of fear.

The most abundant species is the Pintail, followed by the Canvas-back, Baldpate and Shoveller. Other species of ducks occur, however, as well as Grebes, Coots, Gulls and Killdeers. The pleasure derived by the thousands of persons who visit the lake to watch the ducks, and the protection of the birds as a factor in the preservation of the species are well worth the comparatively small expense and trouble. Why do not other favorably located communities try the same experiment? — W. S.

**Recent Circulars by Forbush.**<sup>1</sup>—The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture has recently published two excellent educational pamphlets by the State ornithologist, Mr. Edward Howe Forbush. One of these deals with outdoor bird study and is full of practical hints as to where and how to study wild birds. The other describes the building of bird houses and nest boxes. It seems that the demand for such publications is never satisfied, every year sees the additions of thousands of persons to the army of bird students and it is fortunate that there are State governments able and willing to supply the literature that they desire. It would seem, however, that some of the best of these pamphlets might be stereotyped so that an unlimited number of copies could be printed without the expense of resetting the type.—W. S.

**The Birds of the Albatross Expedition of 1899-1900.**<sup>2</sup>—The long delayed report on the birds obtained on the cruise of the "Albatross" to the southern Pacific in 1899 and 1900 has at last appeared, the systematic study of the collection being by Alexander Wetmore while the introduction and field notes are contributed by Charles H. Townsend one of the naturalists who accompanied the expedition and made the collection. Specimens were obtained from thirty-three islands some of which were visited by naturalists for the first time. Representatives of ninety-three species or subspecies were collected and of these the following fourteen are described as new:—*Ixobrychus sinensis moorei* (p. 173) Middle Caroline Islands; *Globicera oceanica townsendi* (p. 191), Ponapé, Eastern Carolines, *Sauropatis sacra rabulata* (p. 197), Eua, Tonga Islands; *S. c. cclada* (p. 198) Vavau, Tonga Group; *Myiagra townsendi* (p. 205), Kambara, Fijis; *Conopodera atypha* (p. 206), Fakarava; *C. a. rava* (p. 208), Whitsunday Isl.; *C. a.*

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<sup>1</sup> Outdoor Bird Study. Hints for Beginners. By Edward Howe Forbush. Department Circular No. 12, Mass. Dept. Agr. pp. 1-51, numerous cuts. May, 1919.

Bird Houses and Nesting Boxes. By Edward Howe Forbush. Circular No. 10, Mass. Dept. Agr. pp. 1-28, 7 plates and numerous cuts. April, 1919.

<sup>2</sup> Reports on the Scientific Results of the Expedition to the Tropical Pacific in charge of Alexander Agassiz, on the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer "Albatross," from August, 1899, to March, 1900, Commander Jefferson F. Moser, U. S. N., commanding. XXI. The Birds. By Charles Haskins Townsend and Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Museum Comp. Zool., Vol. LXIII, No. 4. August, 1919. pp. 151-225.

*crypta* (p. 209), Makemo; *C. a. agassizi* (p. 210), Apataki; *C. a. nesiarcha* (p. 210), Rangiroa; *C. a. erema* (p. 211), Makatea — all in the Paumotu Group; *C. percernis* (p. 213), Nukuhiva, Marquesas Isls.; *Pinarolestes nesiotes* (p. 216), Kambara, Fijis; and *Myzomela rubrata dichromata* (p. 220), Ponape Isl., Eastern Carolines. There were also three new forms of *Collocalia* in the collection which were described by H. C. Oberholser in 1906. On page 201, Mr. Wetmore proposes a new generic name *Haplornis* in place of *Muscylva* Lesson. He gives an exhaustive history of the latter genus and its applications, and in order to eliminate it and avoid the complications which its use would involve he designates as its type *Muscicapa carulea* Gmel., thus fixing it in the synonymy of *Hypothymis* Boie. This is very commendable but he fails to designate any type for his new genus and being admittedly a substitute for *Muscylva* it may be argued that it falls with it. In the hope that it may be saved from such a fate we would designate *Rhipidura lessoni* Gray as its type which seems to have been Mr. Wetmore's intention.

Incidentally the author shows that Mathews' proposed genus *Scophaethon* is not deserving of recognition and that the correct name for the Red-faced Booby is as generally recognized *Sula piscator*, not *S. sula* as claimed by Mathews. (See however p. 18) of this 'Auk'.

This paper is a valuable contribution to Polynesian ornithology and in the constant recurrence of specific names accredited to Titian Peale we are forcibly reminded of the historic United States Exploring expedition which touched on many of these same islands in 1838-1842. — W. S.

**Coker on the Guano Birds of Peru.**<sup>1</sup>— The study of bird communities constitutes one of the most fascinating branches of ornithology and as the community that Mr. Coker describes in the present paper is one of the largest known in the world a peculiar interest attaches to his account. Engaged by the Peruvian government to make an economic study of the guano and fishery industries he spent the period from December, 1906 to August, 1908, on the coastal islands enjoying unrivalled opportunities for the study of the life histories of the various species of birds which breed there, and the present report embodies the results of his observations.

These Peruvian islands have long been noted for the remarkable deposits of guano left there by the nesting birds and its exportation for agricultural purposes has been going on for centuries. Some idea of the extent of the industry may be gathered when we learn that from 1851 to 1872 no less than ten million tons of high grade guano were extracted from the Chincha Islands alone, valued at the time at about three-quarters of a billion dollars. At the present time the high grade deposits have been well nigh exhausted and inferior deposits are being exported. This, how-

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<sup>1</sup> Habits and Economic Relations of the Guano Birds of Peru. By Robert E. Coker. In charge Scientific Inquiry, United States Bureau of Fisheries. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 56, pp. 449-511, plates 53-69. 1919.